

FORM NO. 51-AAA
FEB 1952

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

25X1A

CD NO.

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Lumber Industry

25X1A

DATE OF INFO. PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE DISTR. 2 May 1952

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Sovromlemn agency is a state owned enterprise for the procurement of wood. It operates five large sawmills and lumberyards in Onesti, Darmanesti, Targu-Ocna, Comanesti and Agas. The general manager is a certain Simon, and the general offices are at Bacau, where about 250 persons are employed.
2. About 3,200 workers are employed in Onesti, 2,000 in cutting logs in the woods and the rest in the sawmill. Trees are felled without regard for forest preservation. The whole forest zone in this area has been reduced almost to a desert. The sawmill manager is the Rumanian Communist engineer Sassu. The chief of the personnel office (politically the most important of all) is Dimitru. He is very loyal to the Party and has a harsh temper. He was formerly a worker in the sawmill.

 There are two daily shifts and the monthly output amounts to 8,400 cubic meters. All the workers are very discontented, since they are obliged to work very hard for little pay and food. The food is bad, consisting of watery bean soup every day. For food pastes the workers must pay 18 lei a day. Bread is not distributed to them. They must buy it on the black market. However, sometimes they are served corn bread. In the sawmill wages amount to 18 to 25 lei per hour, in the forests to 32-45 per hour (Stakhanovite system). After all withholdings are made, a good worker can earn, as a maximum, 9,000 lei per month under this system. The work is sufficiently onerous in itself but, aggravated by the scarcity and poor quality of the food and the long working hours, the workers are completely exhausted at the end of each month trying to meet the work norm.

3. Three lines of saws of the old German type (not automatic) are in operation at Darmanesti. The present production is 2,800 cubic meters per shift, with a monthly total of 5,600 cubic meters of lumber. The present method of

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25X1A

- 2 -

felling the trees leaves the country completely bare. There are 2,200 workers employed here, including 1,200 employed in two eight-hour shifts in log cutting. The chief is a Rumanian Communist named Popescu. No Soviet personnel is on permanent duty in the sawmill but several Soviet inspectors visit it to check up three times a week. In the village public order is maintained by agents of the People's Militia (a detail of 25 men). They inspect the sawmill and amoned buildings daily. There is also a Security detail (32 men) commanded by a lieutenant.

4. Three lines of German-type saws are in operation in the Targu-Ocna sawmill. Including 800 lumberjacks, there are 1,800 workers employed here. Present production is 4,400 cubic meters of lumber per month compared with the pre-Communist production of only 650-700 cubic meters. The usual practice of deforestation is being carried on here.
5. In the lumber yard at Comanesti eight lines of old, non-automatic saws are in operation. A factory for making boxes and crates is connected with the sawmill. It makes packing boxes for the transportation of various types of food and other products. The monthly output is about six freight car loads of boxes. Before the Communist regime the monthly production of wood was about 1,800 cubic meters. Now it is 4,300 cubic meters per shift with a total monthly output of 9,200 cubic meters. About 3,300 workers, including 2,400 lumberjacks, are employed. The wood cut in the forests here is of especially good quality. The yard makes railroad ties for the USSR. The specified measures are: 2.80 x 0.45 x 0.26 meters. Rumania uses standard-gauge tracks and therefore ties of this size can not be used by the Rumanian railroads. Moreover, a Soviet expert is on the spot to inspect all ties. He demands absolute perfection and if any ties are too rough, or badly hewn or even if they have just one knot, he rejects them. The sawmill produces about 14-18 freight carloads of ties per month. Each freight car holds about 60 ties. The mill also produces lumber and boards according to the specifications of foreign countries [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Hungary. Lumber for export is shipped to Odessa whence it is sent to the country ordering it as a Soviet product. In fact, the Soviets collect the payment. The Comanesti forests produce a large amount of hard and very valuable wood. The sawmill has installed a system of artificial seasoning by steam, which is quite modern and permits rapid production of building lumber from the hewn logs. The USSR is very exacting. For the slightest defect whole lots of lumber are rejected. In October 1950 fourteen carloads were rejected because of tiny defects which would not have prevented their acceptance by industry. These rejections really please the Rumanians who thus have an opportunity of using the lumber for their own purposes. Inasmuch as the only way of having wood for private use in Rumania is to obtain the wood rejected by the Soviet inspection service, the logs are often cut badly so that they will remain in Rumania. On 1 May 1949 a fire broke out in the Comanesti sawmill. It was believed to be an act of sabotage. About 100 persons were arrested and many were tortured, but the authorities did not succeed in finding out who was guilty. As a result, all men and women able to work were forced to work day and night on rebuilding the sawmill. It was put in operation in October 1949. The new mill is better than the old one, roomier and airier. It is built mainly of corrugated sheet iron. It cost 450 million lei. It has a special system of forced ventilation which decreases the amount of sawdust in the air and, consequently, the danger of fire.
6. The sawmill in Agas has three lines of saws. They are quite old and in bad condition and are frequently out of order. The manager, named Ioan Mihai, is an old Communist, but not a fanatic. He is kindly and treats those under him well. His salary is 26,000 lei a month. There are 2,200 workers, including 1,200 lumberjacks, at this sawmill. Although this area formerly possessed the richest forests in the whole country, it is now desolate.

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25X1A

- 3 -

and logs must be cut in forests a long distance from the sawmill. In 1944 this sawmill produced about 1,400 cubic meters of lumber a month. Now, with two shifts, it produces 8,800 to 9,000 cubic meters. Lumberjacks work ten to fourteen hours a day, workers in the mills eight hours a day. However, the lumberjacks earn a great deal more pay. There is no Security office in this area. Police duty is performed by eight men detailed from the Militia commanded by a staff sergeant. Not more than four or five percent of the population is loyal to the Communist Party. The overwhelming majority is disillusioned with the system imposed by the Government.

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